

# **CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION**

## ***Televised Meeting – MINUTES***

**September 11, 2003**

**Public Safety Building, Council Chambers**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Rebecca LaBrunerie, Kay Tarapolsi, Jill Schmidt, Una McAlinden, Heidi Houghton, Phil Teller, Latha Sambamurti, Kate Cochran; Youth Advocates Joscelyn Doleac and Nicole Rollofson

**ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Cara Byrne

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:** None

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### **AGENDA**

***Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Rebecca LaBrunerie called to order the *televised* regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building, Council Chambers.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of August 14, 2003 as submitted by:**

Commissioner Schmidt

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

#### **III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

General RAC Business:

- Budget Report – Skillingstead

Arts Education:

- Grant Report – Skillingstead

Performing / Literary Arts:

- Arts in the Parks Report – Skillingstead

#### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None present

#### **V. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS**

##### **A. Chair/Vice Chair**

- **Retreat Information**

LaBrunerie reviewed the draft agenda for the upcoming RAC retreat on September 18. At the retreat, Houghton will discuss a goal review, Tarapolsi will lead a RAC assessment, and LaBrunerie will cover a marketing branding strategy. All Commissioners will present their project evaluations. *Skillingstead will send out the formal agenda next week.*

Commissioners discussed the order of the agenda and agreed on the following: *Evaluation projects first, followed by the assessment, which will provide a foundation for concrete ideas for goals.* Schmidt added that if discussion on the goals is progressing strongly, the marketing discussion (last on the agenda) could be postponed to another regular meeting.

LaBrunerie asked Commissioners to be aware of the budget status, to know the donors/sponsors to RAC, and the demographics (i.e., the target audience) in order to answer questions and develop strategies.

*Commissioners will bring appetizers, desserts, etc. to the potluck retreat, and staff will provide the pizza and beverages.*

##### **B. Continuing Business – Task List**

Vice Chair Tarapolsi distributed the current task list and asked Commissioners to write down their completed dates on the list.

##### **C. Budget Sheets**

Skillingstead distributed handouts of the current budget and revenue reports. She reported the budget is on track for expenditures, and all is status quo. Commissioners will review for the retreat.

## VI. Performing/Literary Arts

### A. Project(s) Status

#### 1. Winter Performance Series Recommendation

Sambamurti reported the following two shows have been chosen and confirmed by RAC for the Winter Performance Series:

- Circus Contraption (showing February 28, 2004)
- Theatre Simple (showing 3/27/04)

Both shows are funded by the King County Performance Network and are a part of that county wide program. The WPS budget also allows for an additional two to three shows, which Commissioners would select. Sambamurti contacted 15 of the artists who had submitted application packets in the past; nine responded. She noted that all are from the Seattle area and are excellent performers.

Commissioners reviewed a spreadsheet of the names of the nine artists, their fees and availability, etc., and listened to these sample selections:

1. Maya Soleil (Afro music/dance)
2. UltraViolet Uforia (blues/rock music)
3. Bakra Bata (music/steel drum/dance)
4. Filipiniana (Filipino music/dance)
5. Groove Mob (music/8-piece horn band)
6. Steve Trembley Band (blues music)
7. Rockaway Band (classic rock music)
8. Bochinche (kids: music)
9. Alleyoop (kids: folk artist)

Schmidt thanked Sambamurti for researching and presenting the selections. She advocated a children-oriented show. She also highly recommended attending Circus Contraption, a show for all ages.

Skillingstead asked Commissioners to choose their top two or three, with alternate selections. ***She asked them to e-mail their choices to her by the middle of next week*** so she could begin bookings and make publication deadlines.

Houghton asked for further descriptions of the two kids' shows. Sambamurti circulated a brochure. She noted Bochinche's show teaches geography of North and South America, and they are very popular in Seattle. Cochran reported she saw a grant application of Bakra Bata in full costume and noted they were stunning. Sambamurti would like to see a mix of nations represented in the season's series. LaBrunerie suggested using a tagline based on the theme chosen. Schmidt thought of something along the lines of promoting "indoor family fun."

Sambamurti suggested those artists not chosen for the Winter Performance Series could be considered for Arts in the Parks next year.

**B. Funding Needs**

None

**C. Marketing**

Sambamurti is working with Houghton and Skillingstead to come up with a marketing/publicity plan by the next meeting.

**D. New Business**

None

**E. Staff Reports**

**1. King County Performance Network Schedule**

See VI.A.1.

**2. Arts in the Parks**

Based on numbers to date, Skillingstead reported there is close to \$600 remaining in the performing arts budget, because \$392 was received in donations.

LaBrunerie asked for a list/compilation of the mailed-in donations in order to ascertain the demographics. *Skillingstead will follow up with a report to LaBrunerie.*

Skillingstead will later bring some ideas to RAC for next year's Arts in the Parks, for example, starting the Municipal Campus Sunday shows at 7:00 p.m. in the warmer months. Skillingstead also noted she would like to book *Wooden O* Theatre's Shakespeare in the Parks again, as they continue to be popular. *Commissioners directed staff to book Woodin O for 2004.*

LaBrunerie asked Skillingstead to make sure Sambamurti is involved in the communications and processes; *Skillingstead will e-mail Sambamurti.*

Schmidt asked Skillingstead to relay the Commission's thanks to the staff person who solicited donations before the Arts in the Parks performances.

**VII. Visual Arts**

**A. Project(s) Status**

**1. Reservoir Park Art Dedication**

Schmidt announced the Reservoir Park art dedication will be held October 16, at 4:00 p.m. at the park.

## **2. Fire Station 11 Plaza and Art Dedication**

Schmidt announced the Fire Station Plaza and Art dedication would be held November 19, at 4:00 p.m. The Parks Department is constructing the plaza.

Skillingstead, Byrne, and Schmidt met with Jim Cummings, Redmond Rotary, regarding the bench. Schmidt contacted the people who did the bench for O'Leary Park and asked them to look at the plaza site. She mailed them a site proposal and a picture of the firefighter sculpture so they might get a clearer idea of what would be suitable based on the budget.

Staff noted the bench may not be done by the November 19 dedication date, but the decision would be more solidified within the next month or so based on the construction/installation schedule.

## **3. *Not Hollywood***

Teller referenced the draft proposal handout, but added there is no current budget to fund the idea. The program would provide an independent film venue for the Redmond community and emerging film artists. Teller has done research on how to locate film titles and places the films could be shown. He is attempting to find distribution networks for the films he has suggested.

Once Teller can contact distributors to obtain titles and costs, then a budget can be drawn up and titles can be chosen. Some films listed on the handout have no current rights holders; others charge \$3,000-\$4,000 per showing. Teller suggested showing popular films grouped in a theme.

Possible venues suggested were Redmond Senior High School auditorium, SecondStory Repertory, ORSCC, Old Fire House Teen Center, The Northwest Center Pool, and the Public Safety Building Council Chambers.

Commissioners/youth advocates had this input:

- Stay with one venue and regularly scheduled programs
- Put together a budget
- Must schedule use far in advance for the high school auditorium; fees are costly; food is not allowed
- Set up a committee for the film festival
- Approach businesses in Redmond, i.e., Bon-Macys, to ask them to sponsor a show
- Hold shows at business venues (e.g., Microsoft)
- Promote students as independent film makers
- Businesses could sponsor awards
- Do not show dance films
- Choose initial films not found at the video store or seen on the big screen

Initially, the program would begin with two or three cult films, to get the audience accustomed to attending the event. Then, introduce independent 20-minute, then 30-minute shorts before the cult film. Eventually progress to independent films over a period of years. Teller would like to achieve a market that views the films and that becomes familiar with the location is in Redmond.

#### **4. Art Outside the Box**

Schmidt reported no work has been done on the Art Outside the Box project due to time constraints and conflicts. She asked Commissioners for support as new volunteers willing to help out. It would consist of a time commitment to continue on with the general guidelines and rules; Schmidt could guide the volunteers. Teller and Schmidt would continue working on the painting information. It is so close to being done, and Schmidt would like to see it completed, as would the Mayor.

A Visual Arts Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22; however, due to activities and meetings already scheduled in September, Schmidt will discuss topics with the committee over e-mail. If that is not productive, a meeting may be scheduled for early October.

#### **5. Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit**

Tarapolsi showed slides of the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit installation. The final two pieces will be installed on Monday (9/15/03).

The opening is Saturday, September 20, at 10:30 a.m. on the Municipal Campus Lawn (rain site is the Senior Center).

This year a graphic artist, Richard Ruiz, designed the invitation postcards and a program booklet. He is currently working on the booklet. Tarapolsi showed a mock up of the booklet that is written to target elementary school age students. It will be produced in booklet form and contain text on the 13 artworks, an introduction, and a map. Questions for K-6 will be printed on side bars.

LaBrunerie asked that all Commissioners attend the opening, since the public is invited and most of the artists will be present.

Tarapolsi has been working on an artist list for next year's exhibit through contacts from the Bellevue Art Museum and the Redmond Saturday Market. The exhibit may expand to parks next year as well. Tarapolsi met with Lori Snodgrass, Park Board chairperson, to discuss different park venues. Tarapolsi will attend the next Park Board meeting to present the idea. She and Teller will meet with contacts from the Saturday Market and Redmond Town Center.

Schmidt distributed materials/information from the LaConner Outdoor Sculpture.

LaBrunerie asked Commissioners to respond to her e-mail denoting the upcoming events each would be able to attend.

#### **6. Call for Artists – Perrigo Community Park and Grass Lawn Park**

A selection committee, with times and dates, has been formed to review the artists. *Houghton volunteered to serve on the selection committee for the Call for Artists. Skillingstead will e-mail the dates again for any additional volunteers to sign up.*

#### **7. ORSCC Gallery Opening**

The ORSCC Gallery opening will be held next month, October 9, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., commissioners will be able to attend the first half before the regular RAC meeting. Schmidt invited all to come and meet the artists. This will be the start of the monthly exhibits, and the works are for sale.

Schmidt will e-mail the web site of Arriba Statue, the artist volunteer who is curating the program. There will be two artists showing per month, changing to two different artists monthly through March. Artists interested in exhibiting their work may get information from the RAC web site.

#### **8. RAC Web Site**

Schmidt has revised the Visual Arts Committee text for the RAC web site, which should make the site easier to read. Skillingstead reported the City is planning on revamping the RAC web site; many changes will provide easier maneuverability throughout the site. LaBrunerie emphasized a brand strategy concept must be incorporated in the revamping. Skillingstead asked Commissioners to be thinking about what graphics they would like to incorporate, how they want the mission statement to look, and a tag line. McAlinden asked whether the RAC mission statement might double as a tag line. LaBrunerie suggested they wait to see the new look.

Skillingstead will be working on the RAC web page with Karen Botkin, Marta Hurwitz, and a volunteer web designer. Tarapolsi suggested concentrating a third of an RAC meeting with the designer. Schmidt offered to help guide the web site design, as she has worked on designing sites before. *She will get the revised text to Commissioners for their review. Skillingstead will invite the designer to a RAC meeting.*

#### **9. Seattle Art Museum (SAM) Sculpture Pieces**

Schmidt reported that the Dudley Carter sculpture from SAM was installed at the Redmond Library on September 10.

Skillingstead is working with Public Works on potentially moving Alexander Lieberman's sculpture piece from the SAM to the south lobby of the Public Safety Building. It is an indoor piece with weight considerations. It must be kept in the location/building through 2006. SAM needs to vacate the spot in their

annex very soon. Skillingstead has spoken with SAM to let them know the City is working on it.

#### **B. Funding Needs**

None

#### **C. Marketing – Press Release / Press Inquiry Update**

Skillingstead reported there have been no press quotes as yet. The Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit article will be published in the *Redmond Reporter*.

Schmidt announced the *Redmond Reporter* interviewed Teller for an article about “RAC goes to Burning Man.”

Also, Tarapolsi contacted Arlene Bryant, *The Seattle Times*, who may write an article for the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit. She also contacted Brian Cantwell, who writes for the “Best Bets” section; she sent him the information and a picture.

#### **D. New Business**

None

#### **E. Staff Reports**

##### **1. Fire Station Art / Plaza**

Skillingstead announced the art dedication is still on for November 19; however, the plaza has been delayed (TBD). *Schmidt has a drawing of the plaza; she will e-mail the attachment to those who are interested.*

##### **2. ORSCC Gallery**

See VII.7.

##### **3. African American Photography Exhibit**

The African American Photography Exhibit opened September 5 with works at ORSCC and City Hall. They will be displayed until September 25. Skillingstead noted a favorable article was written (with a picture) about the exhibit in the *Redmond Reporter*.

### **VIII. Arts Education**

#### **A. Project(s) Status**

The Arts Education Committee is returning from hiatus to their first meeting next Tuesday, September 16, 9:00 a.m. at ORSCC (they normally meet the second Monday of each month). New members may be joining the committee at this next meeting.

The committee will review the following:



- Goals and vision as a committee
- Skills and time commitment each member brings to the table
- Part of year will be spent on planning
- Continue support of LWSD (ascertain their needs)
- Continue art docent support
- Look at how to market the curriculum book
  - Possibly a “locked” PDF document through the RAC web site, or
  - Develop a web site just to support the book
- Docent training in October/November
  - Possibly charge for non-resident (no charge to Redmond residents)

Doleac announced there may be volunteers at the high school who want to work with elementary students in drama. McAlinden asked her to contact her to see if docents want to do a drama element, as teachers may want to do it directly. She suggested Doleac e-mail the elementary school principals and ask if they are interested in doing drama, offering examples of how the volunteers could help. Houghton proposed connecting the students with the art docents, who together, could possibly get a grant from RAC.

McAlinden reported a letter, with the grant brochures, will be mailed tomorrow (9/12/03) to the principals to encourage the teachers or art docent chairs to submit their applications. The teachers might want to partner with the docents.

## **B. Funding Needs**

None

## **C. Marketing**

None

## **D. New Business – Grants**

Tarapolsi reported the postcards were mailed announcing fall deadlines for the 2004 RAC grant programs:

- Organizational Support Grant – October 17
- Arts Education Grant – November 7

***Skillingstead will put the grant postcards in the packets she is sending out.***

Houghton proposed putting the postcards in teachers’ mailboxes at the six elementary schools, the two junior highs, and the senior high.

## **E. Youth Advocate Report**

Advocates reported the high school drama presentations have changed their dates to a tentative schedule. The school administration will confirm the dates by next week.

The following three presentations are anticipated to be offered at the school:

- Curious Savage: Tentative dates are November 13-15, and 20-22. For tickets, contact the school. ***Advocates will also bring tickets to the next RAC meeting.***

- Student-directed plays (competition): *Advocates will email information to Skillingstead for volunteer needs (RAC and others)*
- Bye Bye Birdie

*Advocates will confirm and e-mail dates to Skillingstead for publicity.*

Doleac reported the costume and make up departments are considering a fund raising campaign by making available to the public costumes for rent and make-up application for special events. Tarapolsi suggested they apply for a grant for those two campaigns/projects.

Doleac reported the high school is looking for ways to involve the community and to work with theatres in the area. The school is working on improving programs for the new theatre.

## **F. Staff Reports**

### **1. K-2 Handbook Orders Filled**

Skillingstead announced the K-2 curriculum handbook orders were ready because the manual was now printed in its entirety, with the protocol, copyright, and new order form that includes sales tax. Twenty handbooks have been printed and are available for sale. Those interested in ordering may contact Skillingstead.

### **2. SecondStory Repertory Arts Education Grant Application**

Skillingstead reported that SecondStory Repertory expressed their gratitude for receiving the Arts Education Grant for their apprentice program. Their final summary and budget was distributed for the 2003 Arts Education Grant award. *Skillingstead will bring photos to next month's RAC meeting.*

Tarapolsi reported that RAC offered to SecondStory's auction a tour of the Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit (given by Tarapolsi) as an item for bid. Also, two artists' studio showings were offered: Doe Starr and Steven Edwards.

## **IX. Staff Reports**

None

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Second by:** Commissioner Teller

**Motion carried:** 8-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**NEXT ARTS COMMISSION *RETREAT* MEETING:**

**September 18, 2003**

**Anderson Park – Adair House**

**5:30 p.m.**

**NEXT JOINT BOARDS/COMMISSIONS MEETING:**

**September 24, 2003**

**Senior Center**

**7:00 p.m.**

**NEXT REGULAR REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:**

**October 9, 2003**

**Old Redmond School House Community Center**

**7:00 p.m.**